

S. 1997. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a program of energy assistance grants to local educational agencies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. DOLE):

S. 1998. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections relating to the reputation and meaning of the Medal of Honor and other military decorations and awards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1999. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to transfer the YouthBuild program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Department of Labor, to enhance the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 2000. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 2001. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology within the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing for the Chief Information Officer of that Department to have authority over resources, budget, and personnel related to the support function of information technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. REED, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DODD, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 302. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the impact of Medicaid reconciliation legislation on the health and well-being of children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 303. A resolution calling for the Government of Nigeria to conduct a thorough judicial review of the Ken Saro-Wiwa case, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CORZINE):

S. Res. 304. A resolution to designate the period beginning on November 1, 2005 and ending on October 31, 2006 as the Year of Polio Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr.

CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 305. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Veterans Day 2005; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. BOND):

S. Res. 306. A resolution recognizing that Veterans Day is a day to honor all veterans of the Army and to support the Army Freedom Team Salute's mission to recognize the unsung heroes who have served this country; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. Res. 307. A resolution to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 308. A resolution designating 2006 as the "Year of Study Abroad"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. Res. 309. A resolution expressing sympathy for the people of Jordan in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks in Amman on November 9, 2005; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Res. 310. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 146

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a \$1,000 refundable credit for individuals who are bona fide volunteer members of volunteer firefighting and emergency medical service organizations.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 855

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 855, a bill to improve the security of the Nation's ports by providing Federal grants to support Area Maritime Transportation Security Plans and to address vulnerabilities in port areas identified in approved vulnerability assessments or by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

S. 1014

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to provide additional relief for small business owners ordered to active duty as members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1399, a bill to improve the results the executive branch achieves on behalf of the American people.

S. 1496

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1496, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to establish a market-driven telecommunications marketplace, to eliminate government managed competition of existing communication service, and to provide parity between functionally equivalent services.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 1735

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1735, a bill to improve the Federal Trade Commission's ability to protect consumers from price-gouging during energy emergencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1791

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified timber gains.

S. 1926

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1926, a bill to provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1930, a bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to inflammatory bowel disease.

S. 1959

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1959, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall.

S. 1975

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1975, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 1986

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

1986, a bill to provide for the coordination and use of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium by the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 62

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 62, a concurrent resolution directing the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Rosa Parks for placement in the Capitol.

S. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 9, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding designation of the month of November as "National Military Family Month".

S. RES. 219

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 219, a resolution designating March 8, 2006, as "Endangered Species Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide.

S. RES. 232

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 232, a resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and reaffirming the commitment of the Senate to ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Act in protecting the voting rights of all citizens of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 2304

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2304 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3010, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2474

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2474 intended to be proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2476

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2476 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2477

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2477 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2481

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2481 intended to be proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2485

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were

added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2485 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 1989. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Holly A. Charette Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Rhode Island's brave soldiers, Lance Corporal Holly A. Charette, who was killed in Iraq on June 23, 2005. In honor of her sacrifice, I am introducing a bill, along with Senator CHAFEE, to name the post office at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, RI, the "Holly A. Charette Post Office."

Twenty-one year old Holly Charette died when a suicide bomber in Fallujah attacked the military convoy in which she was riding. This was the deadliest attack on women in the U.S. military since the start of operations in Iraq, and yet another example of the violence that continues to plague our soldiers serving in this conflict.

Those who were close to Holly describe her as a happy and positive young woman loved by all those who knew her. She was a cheerleader at Cranston East High School, where she worked hard in college-prep courses. Her teachers remember her as a "bright, shining star."

Holly had dreams of becoming a postal worker. Instead, in 2002, she made the choice to serve her Nation by joining the U.S. Marine Corps.

She was deployed to Iraq in March of this year with her unit from Camp Lejeune, NC, and assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force. It was here that Holly was able to combine her dreams of postal service with that of serving her Nation.

During her service in Iraq, Holly utilized her strong organizational skills to take on and complete various administrative tasks, including that of mail delivery to the troops. She became known as the "Marine who brought the good news." Holly never forgot a name, and would often stop Marines in the mess hall to let them know that they had mail.

The day that Holly was killed, she was working with Iraqi security forces to prevent insurgents from gaining a foothold in that country.

Her tragic passing has touched the lives of Rhode Islanders. Holly's pres-

ence will be deeply missed by all those who knew and loved her.

This legislation will pay proper tribute to this remarkable young woman, and commemorate her valor for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lance Corporal Holly A. Charette by supporting this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this legislation to name the post office in Cranston after Lance Corporal Charette be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 1989

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HOLLY A. CHARETTE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Holly A. Charette Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Holly A. Charette Post Office".

By Mr. BURR:

S. 1990. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 1991. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a financial assistance program to facilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor our Nation's veterans for their service and their sacrifice. We will celebrate Veterans Day tomorrow, and I am proud of the improvements we have made in providing benefits and care to our country's heroes.

In the past 10 years, since I first came to Congress, the veterans budget has increased by 77 percent, an annual average increase of over 7 percent. The VA's health care budget has increased over 85 percent during this time. We have also enacted a fix to the concurrent receipt problem and made groundbreaking progress with computerized health records at the Veterans Department. I am proud of these efforts, but I certainly understand the need to do more to stay ahead of the curve.

I also want to detail the recent growth in the veterans population in North Carolina. Our State's veteran population has increased by over 100,000, to 780,000 veterans since 1980.

This growth rate comes at a time when the number of veterans in the United States is decreasing. Veterans

are moving to the State because many of them were stationed there while on active duty, and they have moved back because of the quality of life in North Carolina.

I have two bills I have introduced today that I believe will improve the services we currently provide to our veterans. The first is the Services to Prevent Veterans Homelessness Act which makes grants to nonprofit and faith-based organizations to provide services to extremely low-income veterans who are in permanent housing. The goal is to keep them from becoming homeless. The services provided for in this bill—from vocational counseling and personal finance planning to health and rehabilitation—were designed to address the root causes of homelessness.

The VA estimates on any given night as many as 200,000 veterans are homeless and as many as 400,000 are homeless at some point during the year. We also know that 45 percent of the homeless veterans have a mental illness, and 50 percent have some sort of addiction.

The cost of this bill is \$25 million annually, a small sum to help the poorest of our veterans. In North Carolina alone, over 43,000 veterans live below the poverty line. This bill would allow the VA to partner with nonprofits in order to help poor veterans escape the root causes of homelessness. I urge the Senate to consider whether we are doing enough on this issue. More importantly, I invite my colleagues to study this bill and to become a cosponsor.

Next, I introduced the Veterans Outreach Improvement Act which authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to partner with State and local governments for outreach to veterans. This bill provides grants to State veterans agencies and county veterans service offices to help them with outreach and claims development and to provide education and training of officers. The bill would also authorize \$25 million annually for this outreach program.

County veterans service officers are charged with assisting veterans and their dependents in seeking benefits as a supplement to the work being performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are overseen by the Division of Veterans Affairs in North Carolina and receive accreditation from organizations approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Many veterans need assistance in filing claims in order to make sure that the claim is accurate and complete. County veterans service officers and officials from State veterans agencies are often the officials who can actually sit down face to face with a veteran to develop a claim and to send it to the VA. This bill makes the VA a partner in that outreach process.

On the eve of Veterans Day this year, I join my colleagues in honoring veterans across this country for their heroic service to our Nation.